

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Identification of a fingerprint is performed by obtaining for a fingerprint a fingerprint image, storing reference fingerprints in a databank, comparing the obtained fingerprint image with the reference fingerprints for identification, before the identification determining for each reference fingerprint in comparison with the obtained fingerprint image a similarity degree, sorting the reference fingerprints in the databank in accordance with the similarity degree, and performing the identification of the fingerprint beginning with the reference fingerprint which leads to the greatest similarity degree.